

Public Meeting of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

# **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 29, 2019 Commission Meeting: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Present: Riffat Ashai

Cynthia Coburn Elliott Finkelstein Martin Jones Marian Vessels Karen Wood Nicole Czarnecki Diane Mikulis Randy Murbach

Excused Absence: Andrea Kolp

Heidi Burghardt Leslie Kornreich

Doug Lea

Absent: Arthur Gold

Staff: Michelle Henry

Terry Zeigler Erica Lewis

Interpreters: Susan Hook

Michele Lawson

Guests: Miles Ward, Frederick County Government

Mary Becker, HC Office on Aging and Independence.

The Loan Closet

## I. Call to Order

A. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order 6:30 pm.

#### II. New Business

- A. Approval of Minutes for February 25, 2019
  - Minutes approved as written.

## B. Presentation by Mary Becker, The Loan Closet

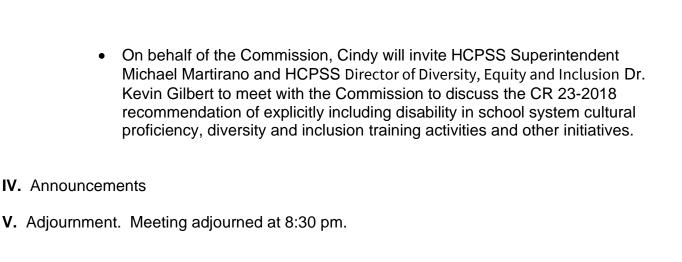
- The Loan Closet provides short and long-term loans of donated medical equipment, free-of-charge, to residents in need. The Loan Closet is moving to a new, expanded location in late summer 2019 – Kings Contrivance neighborhood.
- Expansion of services will include assistive technology devices, through a
  new collaboration with the Maryland Technology Assistance Program. Ms.
  Becker is seeking recommendations/feedback from Commission on what
  assistive technology items they would like to see the Loan Closet purchase
  and make available to the public.

## C. Suggestions for Commission Projects

- Accessible restaurants and other places of public accommodations (Access Committee)
- Ellicott City / Main Street accessibility (Access Committee)
- Improve awareness of available resources. Commission members to view
  the county website to determine "user friendliness." Improve current
  information on Commission webpage, such as adding weblinks to the MidAtlantic ADA Center's videos on service animals, hospitality, disability
  awareness, etc. (Marian, Elliott, Karen and Randy)
- Service animals (Karen)
- Accessible parking spaces (Access Committee)

## III. Old Business

- A. Council Resolution 23-2018 Report on the Status of People with Disabilities in Howard County
  - The report has been submitted to County Executive Calvin Ball and members of the Howard County Council, as required by the CR 23-2018 legislation.
  - On behalf of the Commission, a request has been made to meet with the County Executive to review recommendations from the report.
  - Some recommendations will require funding and/or legislative changes and mandates.



To request accommodations for participation in Commission meetings, please call 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or send email to <a href="mailto:cdi@howardcountymd.gov">cdi@howardcountymd.gov</a> at least five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) prior to the meeting date.